

Examiner's attention to the interconnection by the bolts 18 of the parent plate 15 to the connection part 10, including sections 11, 12 and 13 of the respective chord members 1, 2 and 3, as shown in Fig. 4. One of ordinary skill in the art would have no difficulty whatsoever in understanding the present invention based upon the illustration in Fig. 4 in light of the joint structures in Figs. 8a and 8b which are based upon the embodiments of Figs. 6a and 6b.

Reconsideration with regard to the drawing objection is therefore requested.

The indication of the allowability of Claims 1-5 and 8 is noted with appreciation. Applicant believes that the above amendments to the claims will be sufficient to place the case in condition for allowance. In this connection, applicant traverses the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 8 under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2, because the claims, as originally drafted, were sufficiently clear and definite to point out the metes and bounds of the invention with reasonable particularity to one of ordinary skill in the art. Indeed, the Examiner's insightful comments clearly suggest that the parameters of the invention were clear to him.

Applicant cannot agree, however, that the term "said connection part" has no antecedent basis in line 7 of Claims 1, 2 and 4 or in line 2 of Claim 3, inasmuch as there is only one connection part recited. In the case of Claim 1, for example, the connection part is first mentioned in line 3 and then referred to in lines 7 and 12. Reconsideration of that point is requested.

Applicant has made certain changes to the claims to improve their readability, but these changes are not to be interpreted as narrowing limitations. Nor are the changes deemed necessary to comply with 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2.

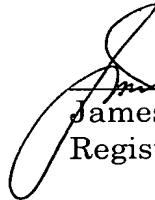
In any event, the application should now be in condition for allowance.
Early action is thus solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #1892/47565).

Respectfully submitted,

May 17, 2002



James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

JFM/acd
37227.001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A truss structure comprising an upper chord member, a lower chord member and a diagonal chord member connected to a parent plate via a connection part formed on [the] an end of each of said chord members, wherein

said upper chord member, said lower chord member and said diagonal chord member each comprise a pipe member;

said connection part comprises a tubular section, and a flat section formed integral and continuously with said tubular section which are formed of said pipe member having a same diameter by a constrained pattern shaping press; and

said connection part is connected to said parent plate via a bolt opening formed in said flat section.

2. (Amended) A truss structure comprising an upper chord member, a lower chord member and a diagonal chord member connected to a parent plate via a connection part formed on [the] an end of each of said chord members, wherein

said upper chord member, said lower chord member and said diagonal chord member each comprise a pipe member;

said connection part comprises a pipe tubular section which is formed by a cylindrical drawing process of said pipe member having a same diameter [by a cylindrical drawing], and a flat section formed integral with said pipe tubular section by a flat press; and

said connection part is connected to said parent plate via a bolt opening formed in said flat section.

4. (Amended) A truss structure comprising an upper chord member, a lower chord member and a diagonal chord member connected to a parent plate via a connection part formed on [the] an end of each of said chord members, wherein

said upper chord member, said lower chord member and said diagonal chord member each comprise a pipe member;

said connection part includes a flat section which is formed by a compression press, an edge of said flat section being tapered, and wherein when assuming that a half length of a distance between two oppositely positioned chord members, i.e., a distance between two connection centers of respective flat sections, is "1", and that a diameter of a bolt provided on the flat sections is "d", there holds a relationship between "1" and "d" that

$$1 \leq \sqrt{2t/2+10\sqrt{2}+2.0d+B/2}, \text{ and}$$

$$1 > 3d \text{ (mm).}$$

5. (Amended) A truss structural member for use in a truss construction including such as an upper chord member, a lower chord member and a diagonal chord member, each having a connection part formed on [the] an end thereof, wherein said connection part comprises:

a tubular section which is formed by a cylindrical constrained shaping of a pipe, and

a flat section which is formed integral with said tubular section by a flat compression press, and wherein a bolt opening is formed in said flat section.